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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/730,716	12/06/2000	Young Chul Sung	G&C 118.6-US-01	7984

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EXAMINER

CHEN, LIPING

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1632

DATE MAILED: 09/26/2002

6

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/730,716

Applicant(s)

SUNG ET AL.

Examiner

Liping Chen

Art Unit

1632

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-14 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) ____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other:

Election/Restriction

Restriction to one of the following inventions is required under 35 U.S.C. 121:

- I. Claims 1-3, drawn to a plasmid carrying SIV-derived gag, protease, env and rev gene, classified in 435, subclass 320.1.
- II. Claim 4, drawn to a plasmid carrying HIV-derived gag, protease, env and rev gene, classified in 435, subclass 320.1.
- III. Claims 5-11, drawn to a plasmid carrying a SIV-derived pol gene encoding for a reverse transcriptase and an integrase, classified in 435, subclass 320.1.
- IV. Claim 12, drawn to a plasmid carrying a HIV-derived pol gene encoding for a reverse transcriptase and an integrase, classified in 435, subclass 320.1.
- V. Claim 13, drawn to a DNA vaccine for AIDS prevention and therapy containing plasmids carrying SIV-derived genes, classified in class 514, subclass 44.
- VI. Claim 14, drawn to a DNA vaccine for AIDS prevention and therapy containing plasmids carrying HIV-derived genes, classified in class 514, subclass 44.

The inventions are distinct, each from the other because:

Inventions I-IV are distinct from each other because they are drawn to compositions having different chemical structures, physical properties and biological functions, and requiring separate search. Inventions I and III each drawn to a plasmid carrying SIV derived genes, they are different as the plasmid in invention I carrying SIV-derived gag, protease, env and rev gene, while the plasmid in invention III carrying SIV -derived pol gene. Inventions II and IV each drawn to a plasmid carrying HIV derived genes, they are different as the plasmid in invention II carrying HIV-derived gag, protease, env and rev gene, while the plasmid in invention IV carrying HIV -derived pol gene. Search for each plasmid does not require search for any other plasmids. Therefore, inventions I-IV are distinct from each other.

Inventions I and III and invention V are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case inventions I and III can be used for *in vitro* protein production.

Inventions I and III and invention VI are mutually exclusive and independent. The plasmid of inventions I and III are not needed for the implementation of DNA vaccine of invention VI, and vice versa.

Inventions II and IV and invention V are mutually exclusive and independent. The plasmid of inventions II and IV are not needed for the implementation of DNA vaccine of invention V, and vice versa.

Inventions II and IV and invention VI are related as product and process of use. The inventions can be shown to be distinct if either or both of the following can be shown: (1) the process for using the product as claimed can be practiced with another materially different product or (2) the product as claimed can be used in a materially different process of using that product (MPEP § 806.05(h)). In the instant case inventions II and IV can be used for *in vitro* protein production.

Inventions V-VI are distinct from each other because they are drawn to compositions having different chemical structures, physical properties and biological functions, and requiring separate search. Inventions V drawn to DNA vaccine containing plasmids carrying SIV derived genes, while inventions VI drawn to DNA vaccine containing plasmids carrying HIV derived genes. Search for one vaccine does not require search for another vaccine. Therefore, inventions V and VI are distinct from each other.

Because these inventions are distinct for the reasons given above and have acquired a separate status in the art as shown by their recognized divergent subject matter, and the search required for any group is not required for remaining groups, restriction for examination purposes as indicated is proper.

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Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).)

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Liping Chen, whose telephone number is (703) 305-4842. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Friday from 8:00 to 5:00 (Eastern Standard Time). Should the examiner be unavailable, inquiries should be directed to Deborah Reynolds, Supervisory Primary Examiner of Art Unit 1632, at (703) 305-4051. Any administrative or procedural questions should be directed to Pauline Farrier, Patent Analyst, at (703) 305-3550. Papers related to this application may be submitted to Group 1600 by facsimile transmission. Papers should be faxed to Group 1600 via the PTO Fax Center located in Crystal Mall 1. The faxing of such papers must conform with the notice published in the Official Gazette, 1096 OG 30 (November 15, 1989). The CM1 Fax Center number is (703) 308-8724.

The Group and/or Art Unit location of your application in the PTO has changed. To aid in correlating any papers for this application, all further correspondence regarding this application should be directed to Group Art Unit 1632.

Liping Chen, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner
Group 1632
September 17, 2002


DEBORAH J. REYNOLDS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600